

# COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 TO JANUARY 15, 2021

GIVING THANKS VOL. 1

U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Policy, Management and Budget

show  
you  
Care



Dear Interior Colleagues:

It is my privilege to support the Department's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this year. As Acting Assistant Secretary Scott Cameron said when he announced the start of the CFC on September 22, 2020, "Each year, your generous donations and pledges through the CFC help those in need in your community, in our nation, and around the world."

The 2020 CFC, which concludes on January 15, 2021, is your opportunity to show you care by donating to one of the thousands of worthy charities that take part in the CFC. From international organizations with names we all recognize to local charities focused on issues of particular need at home, your donation will be gratefully received and put to good use.

**Last year, DOI employees generously gave nearly \$280,000 through the CFC, and earlier this year another \$70,000 was given through the COVID-19 Special Solicitation. With your help, DOI will achieve its goal of contributing \$400,000 through this year's CFC. Won't you join me in giving thanks - and giving back?**

I hope you will enjoy the stories of hope and courage our colleagues have shared regarding charities that are personally important to them. If you have a story to tell, we would love to hear from you! Please contact your office's CFC Keyworker (the list is on the last page) or send to our PMB team at [pmb\\_cfc@ios.doi.gov](mailto:pmb_cfc@ios.doi.gov) to remind us all of the impact we can have through our generosity.

As always, stay safe and be well.

- Steve Carlisle, CFC Keyworker





## Finding Your Way

After a one-year deployment to Iraq, I was discharged from the Army with severe PTSD and other injuries. Like many returning vets, I was having difficulty understanding all the VA benefits I was entitled to receive.

At the discharge facility, a Disabled American Veterans (DAV) representative gave me his card and told me, "If you need help understanding or

navigating the VA benefits that you earned, I will help you."

The DAV representative, who was himself a disabled vet, 'held my hand' through the entire medical and benefits process in order to help me continue my journey to becoming whole again. I will always be grateful to the DAV.

**Marie Bradshaw**  
**Office of the Chief Information Officer**





## Belonging and Achieving

My brother Bobby was born on November 3, 1970 and at 3 months old was diagnosed with Down Syndrome.

In his younger years, he enjoyed participating in the Special Olympic games. He loved to socialize at the events and was very proud of his accomplishments. He decorated his room with all his winning ribbons and looked forward to the next event.

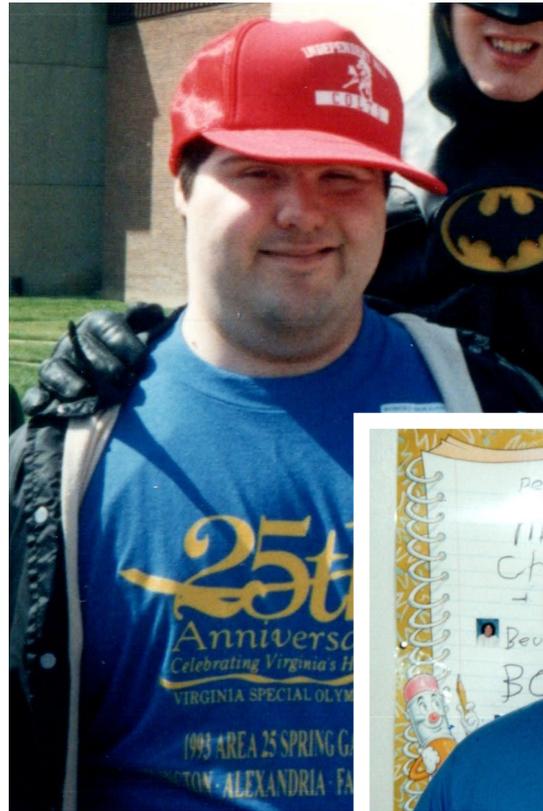
I'm grateful for the sense of belonging and achievement that the Special Olympics gave him and others with disabilities. This organization continues to have a profound impact on individuals with disabilities and their families.

Bobby was a real joy and would always do funny things to make people laugh.

Sadly, Bobby passed away on July 6, 2006 at the young age of 35, but I will always remember the joy he had participating in the Special Olympic games.

**Jennifer Stevenson**

**Business and Administrative Division**



Search "Special Olympics" for 22 location-specific, national and international groups supporting these heroic champions!

## Yakubu's Journey

**Ed Stehouwer**

### **Appraisal and Valuation Services Office**

I was busy repairing the Nigerian rehabilitation hospital's big entrance sign when a beat-up taxi van swerved off the highway, churning up a cloud of dust as it skidded to a stop. As the sliding door slammed open, a young man rolled off the floor, landing in the red dirt on his hands and knees. He'd hardly hit the ground when the taxi roared off, coating him in another layer of dust.

Even though I wasn't a medical expert, just the rehabilitation hospital administrator, I knew instantly that he'd had polio as a child. His knees were permanently bent back so tight that his feet were flopping around the back of his head with toes pointing at his ears. As he hunched there on all fours offering me the traditional greeting, he asked, "Where's the hospital?"

"U za gbenda nahan chuku tsegh," I responded (*You go just a*

*little down this way*), pointing down the dirt track a quarter mile distant. With a relieved smile he turned, his huge arms and torso dragging the rest of him down the road on homemade wood disks affixed to his hands and knees by leather straps.

Thus began Yakubu's tortured journey that would change the rest of his life and leave a lasting impression on mine.

What followed were months of surgeries, followed by casting in stretch positions, interrupted for painful physical therapy that degree-by-degree lengthened the tendons and stretched the constricted muscles of his knees and ankles.

When Yakubu's knees made it to a right angle, the nurses sat him in a makeshift wheelchair. For the first time in his life, he could go places without dragging himself through the dirt and sit in a chair instead of on the floor. He was thrilled, but months of agony remained. *[continued next page]*



Physical therapy bars in the rehabilitation hospital in Nigeria

## Yakubu's Journey *[continued]*

One week, I noticed Yakubu regularly rolling his chair by my office. Curious, I tagged along to the hospital workshop. There, craftsmen were welding the last pieces on padded steel braces they'd molded for his nearly straightened legs, fitting him into new boots fastened into the brace, measuring him for forearm crutches, and thus casting aside his old wood knee-disks forever.

A few days later, a physical therapist dragged me from my office; the big day had arrived. Yakubu sat on a table, legs sticking straight out, while therapists strapped on his new braces. They rolled him off to stand at the parallel bars. With tremendous focus, he slid a leg forward; arm muscles rippling, he shifted weight, sliding the other foot forward. The young man glanced around, tears of joy streaming down his face, as he took his first baby steps.

It was but a few weeks later that I stood under the mango tree in the hospital commons watching Yakubu, in braces and crutches, heading back up the dirt driveway to the highway. With a broad smile and a wave of his crutch, he turned toward home. Instead of crawling, he decided that this time, he'd rather walk it!

Yakubu had no money, but only by the gracious gifts of those blessed with enough can this hospital continue to serve the desperate. It's a rare privilege that all these years later, with a little gift from my abundance, I can literally and figuratively give the next Yakubu a leg up.



*Pictured, top to bottom: The shoe shop where technicians made Yakubu's boots; the author with his blind bestie from the leprosy village using crutches from the carpentry shop; the fabrication shop, where the fabricator is a former patient with spina bifida.*



## Winning the Battle Within

*Mike Hastings, Review Appraiser, served four years active duty as an infantryman in the Army and 17 years in the Army National Guard. Mike writes:*

Please support Wounded Warriors because the various service people who come home with missing parts or limbs or traumatic injuries really need our help and support to get their lives back together. They signed the dotted line to serve the greatest country on earth - the United States of America - and to keep us free to pursue our normal lives.

When you sign the dotted line, you basically are writing a blank check to serve with up to and including your life in service to our great country.

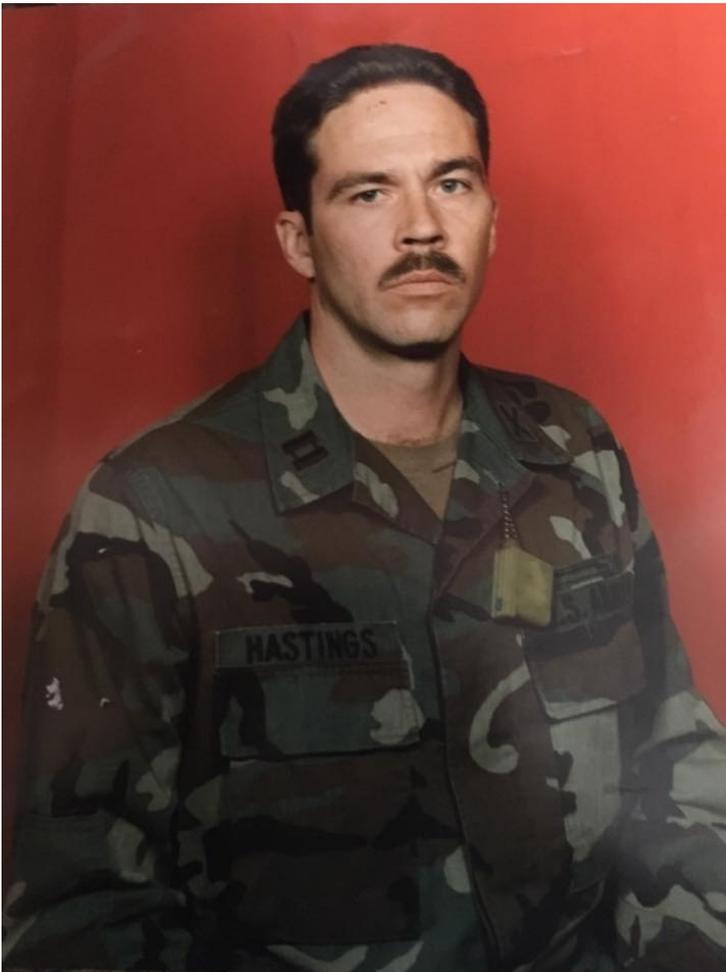
I have read that less than 1% of the population serves our great country. I am one of that less than 1% who have served, and I know the dangers and tribulations our great warriors go through.

Twenty-two veterans take their lives every day. We need to support our service people. Not all wounds can be seen on the outside.

Please support veterans and help us win the battle within!

**Mike Hastings**

**Appraisal and Valuation Services Office**



Search "Veterans" for 358 charitable groups doing amazing work supporting our heroes and their families.



## Rescuing Each Other

When it came time to adopt rescue dogs, I wanted to find a local organization that shared some of the same beliefs I had: no cages, no euthanasia, and an open-door policy regarding “dangerous” breeds. After checking the CFC list of local animal charities, I found a remarkable place hours from town. As we pulled through the gates into the 200-acre wooded ranch, my friend Ande and I were amazed to have perhaps 30 dogs greet

us. Tails wagging, they welcomed us to step out of our car and soon we were inundated with doggy affection.

The owners, a retired military couple, showed us around the well-maintained ranch, where more than two hundred healthy dogs and cats roamed free. Within minutes, Frankie spotted me and wouldn’t leave my side. I thought I would be adopting a different dog, but somehow Frankie had chosen me, and it was just a matter of time before Ande said, “I think it’s a done deal.” That happy day Frankie came home with me.

About six months later, noticing Frankie was getting a bit anxious left alone all day, I called the owners to ask if Frankie had a particular buddy, and they told me about Crinkle. Soon Frankie and Crinkle were reunited, both so happy to see each other, and all three of us have been together for twelve years now. They are my telework companions, sleeping in their beds under the desk, and we couldn’t be happier!

Ever since that fateful, happy day at the ranch, I have allocated 25% of my charitable giving to animal rescue organizations, and I will always be grateful to the CFC for helping me find Frankie and Crinkle.

**Steve Carlisle**  
**Interior Business Center**



Search “Animal Related”  
for charitable groups in  
your area doing wonderful  
work supporting rescued  
critters.

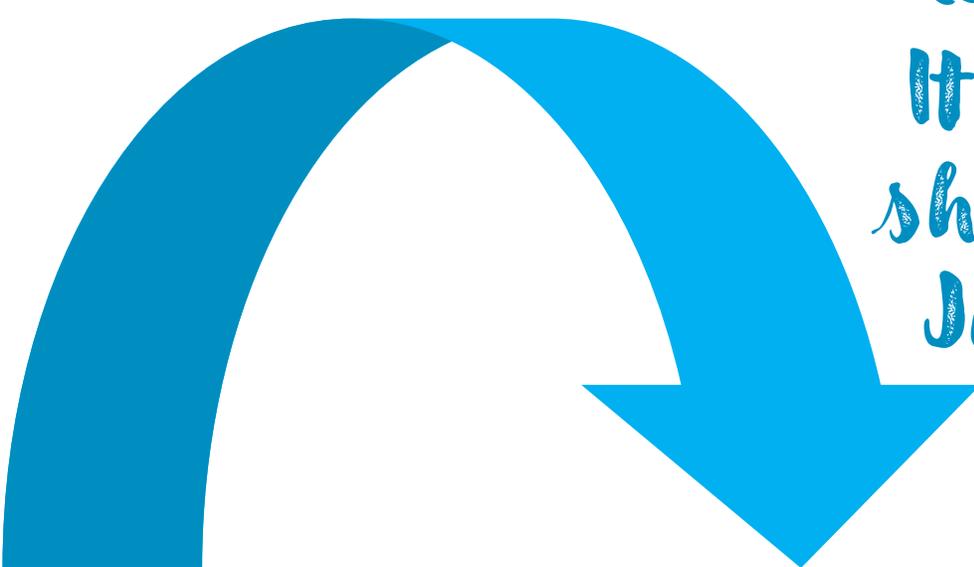


Have a question or need assistance? Your CFC keyworkers are here to help! Please reach out anytime. Thanks!

### CFC KEYWORKERS: POLICY, MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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**Please note: if your office does not have a CFC keyworker listed, please feel free to reach out to Steve Carlisle and Jennifer Stevenson, CFC PMB Co-chairs, at [pmb\\_cfc@ios.doi.gov](mailto:pmb_cfc@ios.doi.gov). Thank you!**



Ready to give?  
It's so easy to  
show you care:  
Just click on  
the link!